



Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$250,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund (BCRLF) programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

Since the late nineteenth century, West Virginia's economy has centered around the chemical products, mining, primary metals, and glass products manufacturing industries. As the economic importance of these industries waned in the U.S., many businesses closed, jobs were lost, and many properties were left abandoned.

Today, West Virginia is one of the most economically distressed states in the country. In 1996, West Virginia had the lowest household and personal income levels in the U.S. The state's poverty rate of 20% was the highest of any state in the nation. As an indication of the economic hardship within specific counties, the Appalachian Regional Commission has designated nearly half of the State's counties as "distressed." This designation indicates that income levels are less than one-third the U.S. average and that poverty and unemployment levels are 150% of the U.S. average.

The counties with the lowest per capita incomes are concentrated in the central and southwestern regions of the State. These areas are largely rural and have mining-based economies. West Virginia has four designated Federal Enterprise Communities (EC) and one designated Empowerment Zone (EZ).

PILOT SNAPSHOT



State of West Virginia

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$1.0 million

BCRLF Target Area:
Sites located throughout the State

Contacts:

West Virginia Division of
Environmental Protection
(304) 759-0515

Region 3 Brownfields
Coordinator
(215) 814-3211

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The West Virginia BCRLF will provide a needed source of cleanup funds in the State. The BCRLF will be used to capitalize the West Virginia Brownfields Revolving Fund (BRF), which was established in the West Virginia Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Act of 1997.

The State's overall brownfields objectives are to provide an incentive to clean up and redevelop contaminated sites, direct new development away from pristine "greenfields" sites, and generate public benefits for West Virginia's communities. The State has shown ongoing commitment to brownfields remediation and redevelopment, but cites the lack of affordable financing as a consistent complaint of the business community.

The BCRLF will be available for redevelopment projects throughout the State. City and County economic development authorities are expected to be the most likely borrowers. The West Virginia Development Office (DO) has identified 162 local public and private organizations directly involved in economic development in West Virginia as potential loan recipients.

FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) will serve as the lead agency, and the Division's Voluntary Remediation Program will serve as the BCRLF site manager. The West Virginia DO will serve as the fund manager.

The DEP anticipates that the first round of loan recipients will be undertaking small cleanup projects that can be completed in a relatively short period of time.

LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES

The State plans to complement BCRLF funds with local Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community resources. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program will be leveraged to the maximum extent possible. In addition, the West Virginia DO has an array of assistance and incentive programs designed to help local businesses relocate, expand, and modernize. Local authorities may make other funds available to BCRLF recipients whose sites have potential for business/industrial reuse.

Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.
